

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THE NEW JERSEY CHINESE CULTURAL STUDIES FOUNDATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise today in recognition of the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation (NJCCSF) and its ongoing dedication to promoting awareness of Chinese culture. I applaud the achievements this organization has made in helping many of central New Jersey's students pursue the study of Chinese language, history, and culture.

For the past two years, NJCCSF has been committed to promoting the study of Chinese culture by providing scholarships, awards, and financial aid to qualified New Jersey residents under the age of 25. Since its 1999 founding by the Overseas Hong Kong Association (U.S.A.), the NJCCSF has sponsored numerous non-profit and non-political events and activities geared toward fulfillment of its mission to preserve Chinese cultural heritage.

Successfully promoting Chinese culture within such a large and widespread community requires the dedication and skill of talented volunteers and the generosity of committed donors. The NJCCSF has certainly demonstrated its steadfast commitment to the cause of promoting Chinese cultural education through its provision of funds to a great number of university students throughout the state.

The NJCCSF has played an important role in helping to develop social, economic, and cultural ties among Hong Kong immigrants. It is often described as a "home away from home" for its members and their families. It established the NJCCSF with the for the purpose of more effectively promoting Chinese cultural awareness.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing its unwavering dedication to serving our community.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the great work of the Department of English at Howard University. On February 15, 2001, the Department of English at Howard University is sponsoring its eighth annual Heart's Day Tribute, a day on which the Department annually commemorates its intellectual traditions. For a

number of years, it has dedicated this special day to pay homage to those notable men and women who have contributed so richly to our lives. Past honorees have been writers Gwendolyn Brooks, Paule Marshall, Chinua Achebe, and James Baldwin. This year Heart's Day celebrates the work of one of the most provocative and most influential writers of the twentieth century—Amiri Baraka. As the leading voice of the Black Arts Movement, Baraka played a central role in helping to shape the parameters of a new cultural and intellectual rebirth. Through his brilliant essays, plays, poetry collections, and novels, he drove America to contemplate its deeper psyche. At the same time, he explored a world of rich redemptive black culture through such studies as *Blues People* (1963) and *Black Music* (1968). The Heart's Day tradition was inaugurated to support the Department's effort to complete funding for the Sterling A. Brown Endowed Chair. Professor Brown established the first formal study of African American literature in the academy. We salute Howard University and applaud them to continue to honor literary achievers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today, we are introducing the Electronic Commerce Enhancement Act. This bill represents a bipartisan effort to assist small- and medium-sized businesses move their operations into a comprehensive e-commerce environment. The goals of this legislation are twofold: (1) To assist small- and medium-sized manufacturers move into an e-commerce environment; and (2) improve the interoperability of the electronic transfer of technical information in the manufacturing supply chain.

This bill is the same text as H.R. 4429 the Electronic Commerce Enhancement Act, reported by the Science Committee and passed unanimously by the House in the 106th Congress. The Electronic Commerce Enhancement Act addresses real problems that small- and medium-sized businesses are still facing today. That is why I and Chairman BOEHLERT have decided to re-introduce this legislation.

One of the purposes of this legislation is to provide American small businesses with the information and knowledge they need to make smart decisions on e-commerce related purchases and services. This bill authorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program (MEP) to establish an electronic commerce pilot program at MEP Centers. This pilot program will allow MEP Centers to provide small manufacturers with the information they need to make informed purchases of e-commerce products and services.

The other main goal of this legislation is to address the issue of interoperability in the manufacturing supply chain. Adoption of e-commerce business practices within a supply chain is hindered by a lack of interoperability between software, hardware, and networks in exchanging product data and other key business information. The National Institute of Standards and Technology has supported the first phase of an interoperability program in the auto industry called STEP. In my home state of Michigan, STEP proved to be a highly successful and was strongly supported by the auto industry and manufacturers in their supply chain. These provisions authorize NIST to perform an assessment to identify critical enterprise integration standards and implementation activities for major manufacturing industries and to report to Congress on the appropriate role for the government to work in partnerships with industry.

This bipartisan legislation represents sound and reasonable policy and builds upon the proven track record of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF NORTHERN FRONT RANGE ROADLESS AREA PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Colorado's national forests are among the things that make our state a very special place to live. But as our population increases, so do the pressures on our forests.

That is why I strongly supported last month's adoption of new Forest Service rules for managing roadless parts of the national forests—areas that, in the words of the final environmental impact statement on the new rules, "possess social and ecological values and characteristics that are becoming scarce in an increasingly developed landscape."

I think those new rules are both timely and welcome. They make good sense as a way to protect natural resources, provide more diverse recreational opportunities and preserve some of the undisturbed landscapes that are such a special part of Colorado and other Western states.

This week, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman acted to delay the effective date of those new rules, so that they will take full effect in May instead of next month. According to the formal notice, the delay is intended to give the current Administration an opportunity to give the rules further review and consideration.

I understand why the new Administration would want to review these new rules. But I hope that their action in delaying implementation does not signal an intent to weaken or abandon this important initiative.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I am confident that a full and fair review will show that the new rules, developed through an extensive public process, reflect the highest standards of science-based public policy.

I also think a fair review will show the rules are needed to protect the roadless areas—areas that are valuable for wildlife, support ecosystem health and the full range of native species, serve as important sources of clean water, and provide a bulwark against the spread of invasive species such as many of the weeds that plague Colorado's ranchers.

Meanwhile, there have been some press reports suggesting that Congress might be asked to overturn the rules through legislation.

I hope those reports are wrong. I do not think that is what we in Congress should be doing. In fact, I think we should move to strengthen, not weaken, the protection of the roadless parts of our forests.

That is why I am today introducing a bill that would provide additional legal protections to roadless lands in the portion of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest within Colorado's Second Congressional District.

My bill, the "Northern Front Range Roadless Area Protection Act," would require the Forest Service to manage over 80,000 acres on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest as "protected roadless areas." These lands—all within the Congressional District I represent—are areas that the Forest Service identified as roadless in its 1997 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt, and will be covered by the new roadless-area rules when those rules take effect. Further, most if not all of these areas would be appropriate additions to existing wilderness areas.

The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest is within a few minutes' drive for more than 2.5 million people in the Front Range Denver-Boulder metro area. It is experiencing increasing use of all kinds, especially recreational use. So, at least with respect to some of its most valuable lands, I want to undergird the new Forest Service rules with a statutory requirement to protect the special qualities of these areas.

Under the bill, these roadless areas would be managed under the "recommended for wilderness" management category in the existing Forest Plan until Congress decides otherwise. The bill would also require the Forest Service to study and evaluate these areas and make recommendations to Congress regarding their future management. That report would be submitted within three years. The bill will thus allow the Congress the opportunity to ultimately resolve the status of these roadless lands.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is limited in scope and deals only with some of the lands in Colorado that need legislative protection. More will need to be done to respond to the pressures of growth on our national forests and other public lands. But I think it represents an important first step, and I will seek to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to have it enacted into law.

NORTHERN FRONT RANGE ROADLESS AREA PROTECTION ACT

SUMMARY

The bill would give interim protection to over 80,000 acres of roadless areas on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado's 2d Congressional District

THE FOREST, ROADLESS AREAS, AND THE BILL

The Forest: The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest includes more than 1.5 million acres along Colorado's northern Front Range. It surrounds Rocky Mountain National Park and contains a number of designated wilderness areas. It contains a wide range of ecosystems and topography including level grasslands and peaks rising over 14,000 feet. It includes the rugged part of the Continental Divide seen from the Denver-Boulder metro area. Because of its proximity to 2.5 million people, it is heavily used by the public, and provides vital watersheds.

Roadless Areas: The Forest Service's 1997 Revision of the management plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest identified lands that qualify as roadless. The Clinton Administration developed new rules restricting certain activities in national forest roadless areas in order to protect their roadless character and other natural resource values. The Bush Administration has acted to postpone implementation of these rules in order to review their provisions. The bill would provide statutory interim protection to maintain the roadless quality of some Arapaho-Roosevelt roadless areas until Congress decides on their ultimate status.

What the bill does

Acreage Affected: The bill would apply to over 80,000 acres in 12 areas within the Second Congressional District (Boulder and Clear Creek Counties) that were identified as roadless in the 1997 forest plan. The bill would designate these areas as "protected roadless areas."

Management: The bill would require the Forest Service to manage these lands in accordance with the "recommended for wilderness" directive in the 1997 forest plan. This would: (a) prohibit timber harvesting; (b) prohibit motorized vehicles; (c) allow the location of "hard rock" minerals (gold, silver, etc.); (d) prohibit oil and gas leasing.

Grazing: The bill would specifically allow grazing to continue under existing laws.

Report: The bill would require the Forest Service to report to Congress in 3 years with their recommendations as to whether these lands should become wilderness areas or other land management status.

What the bill would not do: Designate New Wilderness Areas: The bill does not designate any wilderness areas.

Apply Forest-wide: The bill does not apply to the whole Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest only to specified roadless areas within the Second Congressional District.

Address James Peak: The bill does not include the James Peak Roadless Area.

HONORING ZENIA MUCHA'S SERVICE TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor an outstanding public servant, a faithful adviser and a trusted friend.

For the past six years, Zenia Mucha has served as Communications Director and Senior Adviser to New York State Governor George Pataki. On Monday, February 12, friends and co-workers will gather at the Governor's Mansion in Albany, New York, to bid her a fond farewell as she begins her new duties as Senior Vice President for Communications with the ABC Broadcast Group.

Before joining Governor Pataki's staff, Zenia served for 14 years on the staff of U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, first as a staff aid and, during his last six years of service, as Communications Director.

My own friendship with Zenia stretches back to her early days with Senator D'Amato. Like so many others, not only was I impressed by her knowledge and ability, but on countless occasions, benefited as well from her advice and counsel.

In a recent column in the New York Post, writer Cindy Adams captured Zenia's personality as well as I have ever seen in print. "She's sassy. She's brassy. She's tough. She tells it like it is. She's loyal as hell. She's brilliant."

Mr. Speaker, I know how deeply Zenia's leadership and ability will be missed in New York's Capitol, and I ask that this House of Representatives join me in thanking Zenia Mucha for her leadership and service to New York state, and that this Congress join me in extending its sincerest best wishes for her continued success.

PAYROLL TAX CREDIT

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduced legislation yesterday to provide much needed tax relief to America's working men and women. Unlike other proposals currently under consideration, my bill would offer fair, across-the-board tax relief while providing a stimulus to the economy, without risking a return to the budget deficits of the 1980's and 90's.

In this period of substantial budget surpluses, most of us agree that Americans deserve a break in their taxes, but we are divided on the best way to accomplish this. President Bush has proposed a \$2 trillion package of tax cuts, the centerpiece of which is a reduction in income tax rates. Unfortunately, this proposal is flawed in two important ways: first, it relies on almost all of the Congressional Budget Office's recent forecast of an on-budget surplus of \$2.7 trillion over ten years, an amount that is by no means guaranteed. Second, the great majority of the tax relief would go to the wealthiest Americans.

The Bush proposal is not the only way to implement an across-the-board tax cut. The legislation I have introduced would provide tax relief to all working Americans in the form of a tax credit based on the amount paid in Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes, up to \$300 per individual and \$600 per couple filing jointly. At a cost of approximately \$40 billion per year, this credit would mean tax relief for each and every American who pays into Social Security and Medicare, but would not tie up the entire expected surplus. If for some reason the surplus does not meet current projections a few years down the road, we will not face a sudden deficit. In addition, there will be enough left over for other top priorities such as creating a prescription drug benefit under Medicare and improving America's schools.

Importantly, this proposal will benefit the three-quarters of Americans who pay more in